



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

Testimony of

**Department of Consumer Protection
Commissioner Jerry Farrell, Jr.**

Presented to the General Law Committee

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

**Regarding Raised House Bill No. 5610
"An Act Requiring Last Sale Dates for Retail Food Products."**

Senator Colapietro, Representative Stone, and members of the Committee, I am Jerry Farrell, Jr., the Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection. It is my pleasure to submit testimony in support of Raised House Bill No. 5610, "An Act Requiring Last Sale Dates for Retail Food Products." The Department's Food and Standards Division helps to ensure a safe supply of food in Connecticut, and would have jurisdiction over open date labeling of food products, as proposed by this bill.

According to the United States Food and Drug Administration, except for infant formula and some varieties of baby food, there are presently no Federal requirements for open date labeling of food products in the United States. As of December 2002, however, 30 states have enacted regulations mandating open dating of selected products, such as milk, eggs, and perishable packaged foods. Open date labeling has proven to be a popular issue with consumers, as evidenced by the number of states who have taken the lead by adopting such regulations.

We support the adoption of this food safety bill with the suggestion that it allows the Department to adopt the Uniform Open Dating Regulation developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in concert with the National Conference on Weights and Measures.

For the above reasons, the Department favors this proposal with the above recommendation to amend the language, and urges your support. The Department thanks the Chairs and members of the General Law Committee for the opportunity to present the above testimony in support of Raised House Bill No. 5610.